

From: [Craig Carroll](#)
To: [Gary Moore](#)
Cc: [Richard Mayer](#); [Maria Martinez](#); [Harry Compton](#); [William Rhea](#); [David Gray](#); [Diane Taheri](#)
Subject: Fw: Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill
Date: 04/30/2010 07:55 AM

FYI

Craig Carroll
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EPA Region 6
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----- Forwarded by Craig Carroll/R6/USEPA/US on 04/30/2010 07:53 AM -----

From: Richard Wayland/RTP/USEPA/US
To: Tim Hanley/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Phil Lorang/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Craig Carroll/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Sam Coleman/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Carol Kemker/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, Carl Edlund/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/30/2010 07:34 AM
Subject: Fw: Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Hi folks,

See the email below from Stan. I assume the TAGA bus can handle some of these VOC measurements and is mobile so it could be moved around. Are there other considerations for VOC monitoring that we need to consider in light of more concern with oil spray and maybe less on the burn side? I'm sure folks on the ground are working this as well, but just wanted to raise as I'm sure we'll get asked specific questions from the Admin office. Any suggestions or input you have related to this would be helpful so we can respond to the folks in DC.

Thanks,
Chet

Richard A. "Chet" Wayland
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----- Forwarded by Richard Wayland/RTP/USEPA/US on 04/30/2010 08:16 AM -----

From: Gina McCarthy/DC/USEPA/US
To: "Steve Page" <Page.Steve@Epa.GOV>, "Chet Wayland" <Wayland.Richard@EPA.GOV>, "Lydia Wegman" <Wegman.Lydia@EPA.GOV>
Cc: "Alan Rush" <rush.alan@epa.gov>
Date: 04/30/2010 07:29 AM
Subject: Fw: Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill

For your prompt consideration.

▼ Stan Meiburg

----- Original Message -----

From: Stan Meiburg

Sent: 04/30/2010 01:11 AM EDT

To: Dana Tulis; Gilberto Irizarry; Debbie Dietrich; Franklin Hill; hitchcock.shane@epa.gov; Al Armendariz; Lawrence Starfield; Gina McCarthy; Steve Page; Sam Coleman; Janet Woodka; Paul Anastas; griffith.bryon@epa.gov; hxfl@cdc.gov; Seth Oster; Bob Perciasepe; Allyn Brooks-LaSure; Kevin Teichman

Cc: terry.carl@epa.gov; wise.allison@epa.gov; gordon.scott@epa.gov; Kenneth Lapiere; kemker.carol@epa.gov; neeley.doug@epa.gov; peyton.mike@epa.gov; quinones.antonio@epa.gov; Danny France; David Gray; Robert Safay

Subject: Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Colleagues:

I just got off the phone with Bryon Griffith, Director of EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program, who pointed out to me a concern that I had not anticipated about aerosols from the oil spill as it approaches the tidal zone and landfall. Others have thought this through but I hadn't thought of the spill this way, so I wanted to share this with you and I apologize if this is redundant.

Weather conditions in the Gulf are highly unusual now, with strong, sustained 25 knot winds from the Southeast. As the oil spill approaches land (first the barrier islands in, for example, the Mississippi Sound and then into the Sound itself), Bryon reported that the wave action generated by these winds will have a tendency to produce aerosolization of the oil to a much greater degree than normal, both by the churning of the waves themselves and by the tendency of the wind to shear off the tops of waves. These conditions can produce inland irritation due to salt spray in normal times. Bryon compared the event we are facing now to a red tide, where such aerosolization can produce respiratory irritation from the red tide organisms.

Bryon reported that already, at Stennis Space Center where the Gulf Program is housed, they are detecting odors which he is confident come from the spill. He reports some concern in the Gulf Region (at least in Mississippi, where he is) that this may increase stress on respiratorily compromised persons (e.g., in hospitals) in the Region. It certainly does validate the desire in the air monitoring plan to increase the monitoring of VOCs as the plan discusses. Bryon was concerned that the potential for effects from this phenomenon had been understated in the response discussions to date.

In addition to continuing to monitor the weather it seemed to me, in thinking about this, that we should consider `1) expanded modeling of the potential extent of such aerosolization under these unusual circumstances; 2) consultation with our public health partners through the Area Command Center or other means to alert them to this possibility and discuss what public health messaging or advisories may be appropriate, and 3) accelerating the VOC monitoring as much as possible, and 4) seeking explicit authorization from the Coast Guard to cover the costs of such monitoring, whether done by us or by State/local government, as a reimbursable expense of the response.

Bryon, if I have missed or mischaracterized any of this, please don't hesitate to correct me!

Stan Meiburg